complementary to all or a portion of said one or more templates.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said polymerase is derived from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* strain ATCC number 12980.

41. The method of claim 39, wherein said polymerase further comprises 3'-5' exonuclease activity and 5'-3' exonuclease activity.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein said polymerase is modified or mutated to reduce or eliminate 3'-5' exonuclease activity.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein said polymerase is modified or mutated to reduce or eliminate 5'-3' exonuclease activity.

44. The method of claim 39, wherein said magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

45. The method of claim 39, wherein the source of said magnesium ions is a magnesium-containing buffer.

46. The method of claim 39, wherein the source of said magnesium ions is a magnesium-containing salt.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein said magnesium-containing salt is selected from the group consisting of magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate, and magnesium acetate.

48. The method of claim 39, wherein said mixture further comprises betaine (MASTERAMP PCR ENHANCER).

49. The method of claim 39, wherein said incubating step (b) comprises incubating said mixture at a

temperature and for a time sufficient to make a DNA molecule complementary to all or a portion of said RNA template.

50. The method of claim 39, further comprising incubating said one or more cDNA molecules under conditions sufficient to make one or more double stranded cDNA molecules.

51. A method for amplifying a nucleic acid molecule, said method comprising

(a) mixing an RNA template with a composition comprising a purified thermostable template-dependent DNA polymerase from the species *Bacillus stearothermophilus* comprising reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions at a concentration of at least 1 mM and in the substantial absence of manganese ions to form a mixture; and

(b) incubating said mixture under conditions sufficient to amplify a DNA molecule complementary to all or a portion of said RNA template.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is amplified by RT-PCR, NASBA, TMA, 3SR, or SPSR.

53. The method of claim 51, wherein said mixture further comprises one or more oligonucleotide primers.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein said primer(s) is selected from the group consisting of an oligo(dT) primer, a target-specific primer, and a gene-specific primer.

55. The method of 51, further comprising a second DNA polymerase having 3' exonuclease activity and a third DNA polymerase having substantially reduced 3' exonuclease activity.